



2013 Deer Trustee Report

Public Action Team Implementation Proposal

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Action Team: Science/Research	Predator Studies and Management C.2.
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This document shows the original Deer Trustee Report recommendation that the Public Action Team considered when developing proposals for implementing the recommendation in Wisconsin. The Public Action Team's implementation proposal is presented then followed by additional background information.

I. ORIGINAL DEER TRUSTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATION

C.2. Involve the public as much as practical with field-based research projects. The involvement of the public in field work for these types of studies is extremely valuable in increasing public confidence, credibility, and support for the WDNR. When we were conducting our Town Hall meetings we were impressed by several volunteers who had assisted with the WDNR survival and cause-specific deer mortality study and spoke very highly of the WDNR and this study. It is hard to overestimate the positive impacts created for the WDNR by establishing local non-governmental public supporters for department research and management activities by having them involved in field activities.

II. PUBLIC ACTION TEAM PROPOSAL FOR IMPLEMENTING THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATION

Below is the Public Action Team implementation proposal along with their rationale and supporting evidence, potential implementation obstacles and consideration of the proposal's potential impact on the overall deer management in Wisconsin.

1. Action Team Implementation Proposal:

- Continue with public field-based research projects on predators, including wolves, and include the involvement with all segments of the public, including non-hunters.

2. Supporting data, references, rationale and other information to help others understand the proposed idea and perspective behind it.

In addition to the Implementation Proposal above, the Action Team also endorsed the following considerations:

- Involve the public, including non-hunters, in new research efforts, such as the trail camera study
 - Involve Wisconsin Conservation Congress and other stakeholders in training and implementation of trail cameras
 - Involve hunters, loggers, mail carriers, and other citizens in monitoring efforts (scat, howling surveys).
- Efforts to involve the public will improve public relations, legitimacy and credibility of the research.
- Hunters and non-hunters may have greater trust in the research findings if they are involved in the data collection process.
- Submit public observations on the DNR website
- DNR needs to include adequate monitoring, training, and oversight of the public effort, "training the trainers".



Public Action Team Implementation Proposal

3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks to your proposal and possible remedies to address these during implementation.

- Involves substantial DNR oversight, training, and monitoring of public involvement.
- Concern with data quality with involving more public contribution to the data collection process.

4. Overall, consider and describe how the proposal might simplify or complicate deer hunting, management or scientific research in Wisconsin?

- May have to deal with liability issues
- Declining public interest
- Cost of managing public volunteers
- Data quality